

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1.- 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an optical fiber preform using a rod-in-tube method, comprising the steps of:

- a) inserting a glass rod into a glass pipe and setting a pressure reduction level in the glass pipe,
- b) heating the glass pipe and the glass rod in a longitudinal direction, and
- c) causing the glass pipe to collapse in the longitudinal direction due to the heating, and elongating the unified glass pipe and glass rod in the longitudinal direction until the outer diameter of the glass pipe becomes a predetermined diameter,

wherein in the step c), a position at which the glass rod is elongated ~~the glass pipe and/or the glass rod are/is elongated~~ is longitudinally upstream from a position at which the glass pipe is caused to collapse on the glass rod, and

in the step c), the pressure reduction level, heating temperature and tension are ~~[[is]]~~ set so that as to satisfy the following equation:

$$0.1 \leq L1/(L1+L2) \leq 0.8 \quad 0.1 \leq L1/(L1+L2) \leq 0.8,$$

where  $L1$  is length from the position at which the glass rod is elongated ~~the glass pipe and/or the glass rod are/is elongated~~ to the position at which the glass pipe is caused to collapse on the glass rod, and  $L2$  is the length from the position at which the glass pipe is caused to collapse on the glass rod to a position at which the outer diameter of the glass pipe becomes a predetermined diameter.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing an optical fiber preform according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~, wherein the step c) is ~~[[are]]~~ performed so that as to satisfy the following equation:

$$1 < (d0/D0)/(d1/D1) \leq 2 \quad 1 < (d0/D0)/(d1/D1) \leq 2,$$

where  $D0$  is the outer diameter of the glass pipe,  $d0$  is the inner diameter of the glass

pipe,  $D_1$  is the outer diameter of the glass pipe at the position at which the glass pipe is caused to collapse on the first glass rod or the second glass rod, and  $d_1$  is the inner diameter of the glass pipe at the position at which the glass pipe is caused to collapse on the first glass rod or the second glass rod.

11. - 14. (Cancelled)